



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

DEC - 8 2010

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Streamlined Ecological Risk Assessment
Cherokee County Railroads Site
Operable Unit Eight
Cherokee County, Kansas

FROM: Venessa Madden
Ecologist
ENST/EDAB

Venessa Madden

TO: Elizabeth Hagenmaier
Remedial Project Manager
SUPR/SPEB

As requested, we have reviewed the comments provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on the *Streamlined Ecological Risk Assessment, Cherokee County Railroads Site, Operable Unit Eight*. The KDHE recommended a number of changes to the wording of the document. In some cases the KDHE's proposed editorial revisions were incorporated. However, extensive stylistic changes are not necessary. All non-editorial comments are addressed below. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Venessa Madden at X7794.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Section 6.0., Second Paragraph, Seventh Sentence. The sentence will be revised to read "The SLERA for aquatic habitats in the TSMD (MacDonald *et al.*, 2010) found high risks to the benthic community in the Spring River above the tributary; however, only moderate risks to the benthic community in the Spring River were found adjacent to the tributary."

Section 6.0., Fourth Paragraph, First Sentence. The sentence will be revised to read "Location 4 is located in the headwaters of Tar Creek, where the stream is ephemeral."

Section 7.3., First Paragraph, Third Sentence. The sentence will be revised to read "The complexity of ecological systems must be considered when interpreting the results of measurement endpoints as they relate to the assessment endpoint being evaluated."

Section 7.3., Third Paragraph, Third Sentence. Although it is true that a population is composed of all individuals of a particular species, not all individuals in a population respond to the environment the same way. The intent of this statement is to reiterate that extremes of behavior are not taken into consideration in the site conceptual model.

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Appendix A, Toxicity Profile for Cadmium, Section 2.0, Second Paragraph, Second Sentence. The typo “plead” will be changed to ppb. It appears that “pb” was changed to “lead.”